

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 LIMA 03688 282239Z  
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00  
DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-01 ICA-11 /064 W  
-----099816 291950Z /65  
R 282224Z APR 78  
FM AMEMBASSY LIMA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9807

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E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PINT, PE  
SUBJECT: GOP STUNG BY WASHINGTON POST STORY ON DIPLOMATS' HOUSING

1. CONSERVATIVE INDEPENDENT PAPER "EL TIEMPO" FRONT PAGED TEXT AND PHOTOS OF RECENT WASHINGTON POST STORY CRITICAL OF GOP PURCHASE ALLEGEDLY FOR CASH, OF THREE BETHESDA HOUSES VALUED AT \$700,000 FOR PERUVIAN MILITARY ATTACHES AT TIME OF PERUS ECONOMIC CRISIS. POST STORY ALSO ASSERTS PERUVIAN AMBASSADOR'S WASHINGTON RESIDENCE VALUED AT \$5-7 MILLION. "EL TIEMPO" DESCRIBES POST AS "INDEPENDENT PAPER, NOT ASSIGNED TO ANY SECTOR OF THE POPULACE, AND WHOSE DIRECTORS ARE NOT NAMED BY THE USG," AND GOES ON TO BLAST MILITARY GOVERNMENT FOR SQUANDERING SCARCE FUNDS. SUBSTANCE OF STORY REPEATED BY OTHER INDEPENDENT MEDIA.

2. OBVIOUSLY STUNG BY THIS CRITICISM, JOINT COMMAND ISSUED COMMUNIQUE APRIL 27 DENYING PURCHASES WERE FOR CASH, BUT RATHER WITH 30 YEAR MORTGAGES; CLAIMS ACQUISITION IS GOOD INVESTMENT AND SAVES RECENT PAYMENTS, AND CONCLUDES "IT IS CLEAR THAT THE MISTAKEN INFORMATION FROM A FOREIGN NEWSPAPER HAS BEEN USED... BY THOSE INTERESTED IN CONTINUING THROUGH (EL TIEMPOL) THEIR CAMPAIGN OF DENIGRATING THE MILITARY INSTITUTION WHICH THE JOINT COMMAND ENERGETICALLY REJECTS." THE FOREIGN MINISTRY ALSO ISSUED A COMMUNIQUE CLARIFYING  
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POST STORY ABOUT AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE. WHILE NOT DENYING POST ASSESSMENT OF VALUE, MINISTRY NOTES THAT PROPERTY PURCHASED FOR \$292,500 IN 1944, NOT RECENTLY. MINISTRY CONCLUDES INCREASE IN VALUE DEMONSTRATES WISDOM OF BUYING DIPLOMATIC PROPERTIES ABROAD.

3. COMMENT: SHARP REACTION OF MILITARY REFLECTS FACT THAT

POST STORY TOUCHED A SENSITIVE NERVE HERE WHERE CRITICISM  
IS WIDESPREAD OF MILITARY EXEMPTION FROM THE "YEAR OF  
AUSTERITY".  
SHLAUDEMANN

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRESS COMMENTS, HOUSING, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, DIPLOMATIC PERSONNEL  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 28 apr 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
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